



# OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

HALL OF JUSTICE

ALEX VILLANUEVA, SHERIFF



September 18, 2019

Emma Best  
MuckRock News  
DEPT MR 79527  
411A Highland Ave  
Somerville, MA 02144-2516  
79527-64844123@requests.muckrock.com

Dear Ms. Best,

This letter is in response to your request for records under the California Public Records Act dated and received by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, Discovery Unit on August 26, 2019.

In your request you are seeking the following:

Copies of any emails, letters, memos or other records of consultations regarding public records requests (FOI/FOIL/FOIA etc.) with either the Department of Justice, including the Federal Bureau of Investigation and Drug Enforcement Agency components.

Although the Sheriff's Department is obligated to respond within 10 days of receipt of the request, this time limit is subject to an extension of up to fourteen (14) days under the following circumstances as defined in *Government Code* § 6253(c) (1).

The need to search for and collect the requested records from field facilities or other establishments that are separate from the office processing the request, and the need to appropriately examine potentially voluminous amounts of records.

In addition, please note that we may redact or withhold records if there are any exempt matters impacting the privacy rights of individuals (*California Constitution*, Article I, §1, and *Government Code* §§ 6254(k) and 6255(a)). Other exempt matters will include those protected by the attorney-client, official information and deliberative process privileges, pending litigation exemption, personnel exemption, or other matters otherwise protected from

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disclosure by law or where the particular facts and circumstances warrant nondisclosure of the information (*Government Code* §§ 6254(b), (c), (k), and 6255(a)).

We currently have a backlog on PRA requests due to an increase in the number of requests received and an unexpected shortage of personnel. We are working to address the personnel shortage and anticipate making progress in the near future. We are processing the requests in the order received.

We are continuing to gather records to review. Once we have determined what records are responsive to your request, we will review them to determine if some of the records are exempt from disclosure. Not having reviewed all of the records, we cannot specify all the applicable authorities upon which records would be withheld or redactions would be required. The authorities may include, but are not limited to, the following: *California Constitution*, article I, section 1; matters protected by the attorney-client, official information, and deliberative process privileges; matters relating to pending litigation, personnel matters, investigations, or where the particular facts and circumstances warrant nondisclosure of the information. (*Government Code* §§ 6254 (a), (b), (c), (f), (k), and 6255(a).)

Your request has been received and we are hoping to complete the review in the near future. When it is completed, we will advise you as to the availability of the non-exempt records. Thank you for your patience.

If you have any questions, please contact Lieutenant Norman of the Discovery Unit at (323) 890-5000.

Sincerely,

ALEX VILLANUEVA, SHERIFF

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Albert M. Maldonado", followed by a small flourish or mark.

Albert M. Maldonado, Captain  
Risk Management Bureau